

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
San Luis Valley Field Office  
46525 Highway 114  
Saguache, CO 81212**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F03-2014-021 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Steffens Access Road

PLANNING UNIT:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: New Mexico Principal Meridian, Rio Grande County, Colorado  
T. 39 N., R. 6 E., sec 6, lot 7.

APPLICANT: Edward Steffens

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Edwards Steffens recently acquired property in the San Francisco Creek area. The property has a historical access road that was built many years ago. The access road comes off the east side of County Road 13 and goes through about 200 feet of BLM and then connects to his property. The width of the proposed road is 30 feet. The applicant wants to maintain this access road and also wants to be legal about using this access road to access his property. Maintenance will consist of snowplowing and minor grading if needed.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: San Luis Resource Management Plan

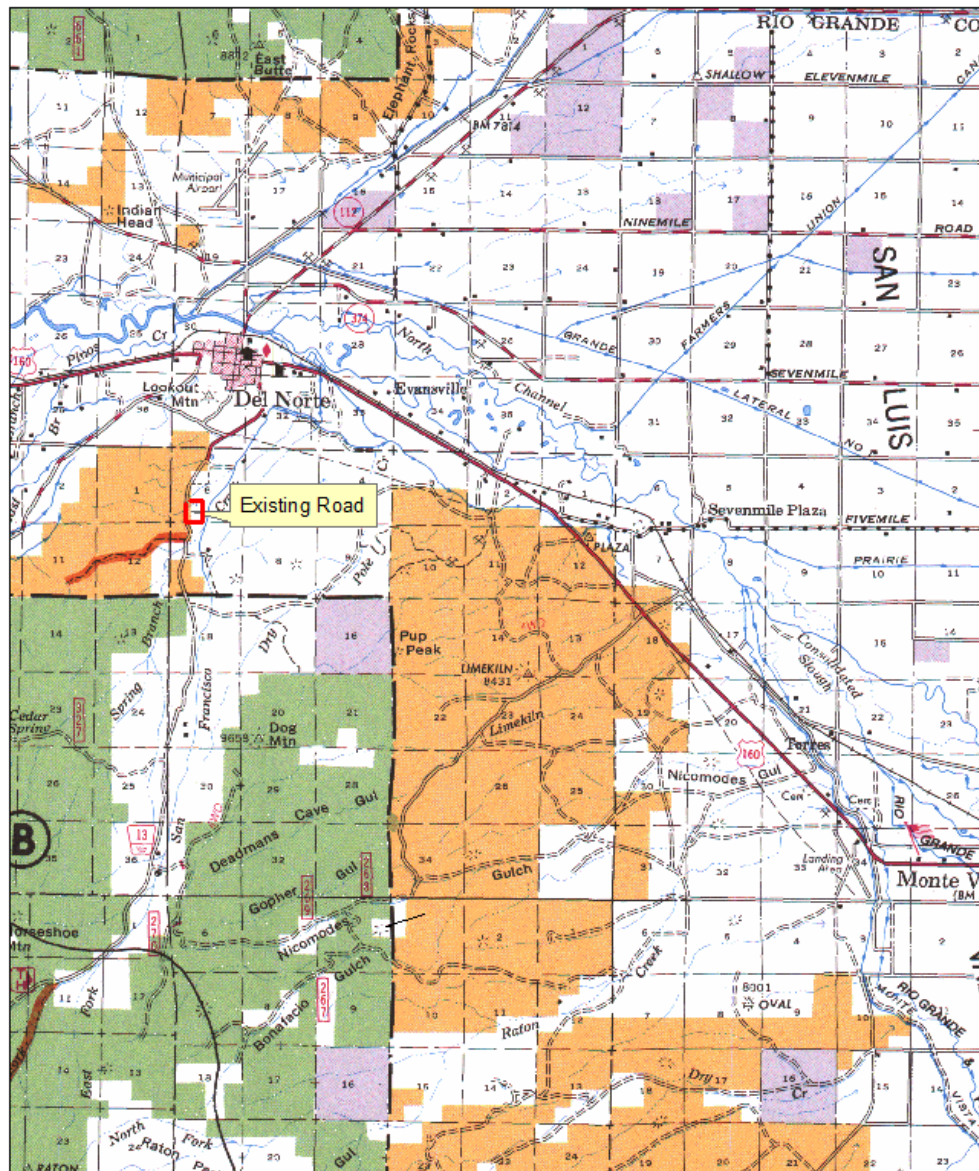
Date Approved: December 18, 1991

Decision Number: ROD – 1 -17 (Lands and Realty- LUA), Page 15

Decision Language: All other BLM lands will be open to rights-of-ways for other utility lines, roads, etc... and each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for alignment and mitigation stipulations

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 E (9). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.





Legend  
Project Area

DOI-BLM-CO-FO3-2014-022-CX

Bruce Steffens

T39N, R6E, Sec 6, Lot 7

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



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Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

<b>INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>Initials/date</b>
Joel Humphries	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	10/31/14 JTH
Melissa Shawcroft	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	10/24/14 MS
Sue Swift-Miller/Jill Lucero	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands/Fisheries	10/29/14 JRL
Eduardo Duran	NRS	Riparian, T&E species	10/27/14 END
Rebecca Morris	Physical Scientist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	10/24/14 RM
Negussie Tedela	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils, Air Quality	NHT 10/27/14
Leon Montoya Sean Hines	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	10/27/2014 SJH
Sean Noonan	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	10/23/14 STN
Brian Fredericks	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	10/27/2014 BAF
Leon Montoya	Realty Specialist	Realty Actions	10/23/2014 LM
Paul Minow	Fuels Specialist	Fuels/Forestry	10/30/14 PSM

**REMARKS:**

Cultural- A Class III Cultural Inventory of the BLM managed portion of the access road was completed, no further work required.

Wildlife: Since the access road already exists, there would be no new effect to any threatened and endangered federally listed species. No BLM sensitive species would be affected by permitting the ROW.

**COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):**

**NAME OF PREPARER:** Leon Montoya

**NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:** Martin Weimer

DATE:

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

/s/ Andrew Archuleta  
Andrew Archuleta, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/6/14